Remarks

8 claims are currently on file.

The claims have been amended to more particularly claim what Applicant believes is the invention. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to include a single press OSB panel, the panel having first and second oriented strand faces with a core material defining voids in between the two strand faces. Support for this inclusion can be found at paragraphs 3 and 20 of the disclosure. Applicant believes that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment. The other claims have been amended to reflect the changes introduced into claim 1.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 37 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Winter in view of Spivey. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended overcome the objection as follows. Winter discloses prefabricated building panel comprising an inner skin wherein the inner and outer skin layers may comprise oriented stand board and wherein the middle layer comprises a paper honeycomb having voids. Spivey discloses an oriented strand board used for a stair tread panel. However, neither Winter or Spivey, taken alone or together discloses a single press OSB panel comprising two oriented strand faces with a core material defining voids sandwiched in between. Indeed, the panel as disclosed in Winter is fabricated by bonding OSB sheets to a stable core which can include a perforated mat. No mention is made in Winter or Spivey of fabricating the composite panel in a single press cycle nor the necessity that the core be sufficiently compression resistant to withstand the pressures brought to bear in a single press cycle. Indeed, prior to Applicant's invention, conventional wisdom taught that in order for an single press OSB panel to have good characteristics in terms of its modulus of elasticity (MOE) and modulus of rupture (MOR) it was necessary to have a solid core. Applicant, on the other hand, has shown that the MOE and MOR are both dictated primarily by the outer most layers of the OSB panel (see in particular paragraph 3 of the disclosure). This means that the conventional flat wood flakes of the core of the single press OSB panel can be replaced by another material defining voids, provided this material is sufficiently compression resistant to withstand those

pressures exerted on the single press OSB panel during the one step consolidation process.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Winter in view of Spivey as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, and 37 and further in view of Medawar. It is respectfully submitted that as claims 2 and 3 both depend from an allowable base claim that claims 2 and 3 are also allowable.

Claims 6 and 10 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Winter in view of Spivey as applied to claims 1, 4, 5, and 37 and further in view of Haywood. It is respectfully submitted that as claims 6 and 10 both depend from an allowable base claim that claims 6 and 10 are also allowable.

The rejections of the original claims are believed to have been overcome by the present remarks and the introduction of new claims. From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such an action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at he number provided.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:_____

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July 3, 2003

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